

2004 Idaho Update

Idaho

BLM



Our Mission
To sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations.





Looking Back

As the land management agency with guardianship over nearly 12 million acres of federal lands within the State of Idaho, we in BLM are keenly aware of this great responsibility. We are the stewards of these public lands – lands which support the needs of not only invaluable natural resources (fish, wildlife, bird and plant species) but also the needs of local communities and the American public. People, like you and those generations yet to come, are the citizen owners of these lands and their precious resources. For this reason, as State Director for Idaho BLM, I believe it is important that I report to you at least a few of the many actions we are taking to protect, restore, and provide for the sustainable use of these lands under our care.



You will note that much of what we do could not be accomplished without strong partnerships with public and private sector groups and individuals. They have chosen to share in the stewardship of the public lands and by doing so are making a positive contribution to the conservation and management of these resources. Contained within this report are highlights of a few of our accomplishments. Some, like Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT), provide funds to counties for improvements to local schools, water, and road systems and to recreation sites in our communities. Others have direct benefit to the lands and resources we manage, and still others are improvements in the way we do business. All are in support of our mission – to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations.



Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "K Lynn Bennett". The signature is fluid and cursive.

K Lynn Bennett
State Director, Idaho

Enhancing the Health of Public Lands and Resources

Idaho BLM participated in many significant cooperative conservation efforts across the State, including:

Candidate Conservation Agreement for Slickspot Peppergrass

In cooperation with private, state, and federal partners, a Candidate Conservation Agreement (CCA) for Slickspot Peppergrass (*Lepidium papilliferum*) was developed. This partnership agreement provides for the conservation of *Lepidium* across state, private and public lands. Under a listing decision, requirements for conservation measures are limited to federal lands. Through the agreement, the species and habitat are encompassed by a much broader application of the conservation measures implemented under the agreement. The partnership agreement contributed greatly to the decision of the US Fish and Wildlife Service to preclude the listing of this candidate species.



Sage Grouse Conservation Strategy

Idaho BLM has been a strong partner with the Idaho Department of Fish & Game in the development of a Statewide sage grouse conservation strategy. Through a cooperative effort with the State of Idaho, Local Working Groups, Resource Advisory Councils, the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (WAFWA), and other partners, a multi-jurisdictional strategy for conserving critical sage grouse habitat is being prepared. In the interim, Idaho BLM will rely upon the BLM's National Sage Grouse Conservation Strategy to guide our conservation and restoration efforts.



Serving Communities

Rural Community Assistance

Under the National Fire Plan, Idaho achieved significant work in partnership with rural communities.

- In cooperation with rural fire departments and community leaders, we completed construction





of the Kamima and Carey Fire Stations in South Central Idaho. The new facilities provide additional capabilities for protecting these local communities as well as the surrounding public lands.

- Provided funding to all 44 Idaho counties to complete Wildfire Protection Plans, which will be in place before the 2005 fire season.
- Distributed nearly \$600,000 in Rural Fire Assistance to 14 local communities.



Developed and Implemented Key Stewardship Projects

Stewardship contracting provides goods for services and enables significant resource goals to be accomplished while assisting the local economy, businesses, and contractors.

- **Whiskey South Project.** This integrated stewardship restoration project, near the timber-dependent community of Elk City, addresses public health and safety issues in the wildland-urban interface, provides for fuels reduction, enhances elk habitat and forest health, and assists economic stability. It is a large project, with a monetary value of \$1.2 million, creating some 50 new jobs in the woods and the mill.
- **Lemhi Restoration Project.** This forest stewardship project is restoring the health of aspen stands in the Lemhi drainage by removing encroaching Douglas fir trees. The competitive contract was awarded locally and the value of the timber will be recouped through the maintenance of BLM roads, which will also improve water quality. The award will help keep a local mill and six employees in business.



Organizational Effectiveness

Performance Based Budgeting

Idaho BLM received an award for our contributions to BLM's receipt of the President's Quality Award for Budget and Performance Integration. Idaho has taken a leadership role in this area and will be dis-

tributing funding to District Offices based primarily on their performance in accomplishing priority workloads.

Organizational Refinement

Idaho BLM administratively shifted field offices to better accommodate customer service and put employees closer to the lands we manage. This included having the Salmon and Challis Field Offices report to the Idaho Falls District Office, relocating our Owyhee Field Office to the gateway community of Marsing, reestablishing the Bruneau Field Office, and creating a fourth District Office in Twin Falls which administratively includes the Jarbidge, Shoshone, and Burley Field Offices. We also chartered a fourth District Resource Advisory Council and changed the names of our District Offices to reflect the city in which they are located.



Providing for Multiple Uses

The BLM provides for a multitude of uses and values on public lands. These are a few:

Wind Energy

The use of alternative energy sources are a critical component of the National Energy Strategy and wind energy is a key contribution. Idaho BLM is processing seven active wind energy development applications consistent with applicable management plans and permitting requirements.

FERC Hydropower Relicensing Projects

Idaho BLM continued active involvement in Idaho's six Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) hydropower relicensing projects. These include: CJ Strike, Hells Canyon Complex, Swan Falls, Spokane River, Bear River, and Mid-Snake projects.



Recreation

Idaho provided high quality recreation opportunities to a growing population through river management; recreation planning; special recreation permits; trails management; operation and maintenance of developed recreation sites; and recreation construction and reconstruction. In achieving some notable accomplishments, we:



- Responded to 12,000 requests for visitor information.
- Processed 100 Special Recreation Permits for commercial users and groups.
- Issued and managed 10,000 recreation use permits.
- Processed and managed 350 Non-Commercial Special Recreation Permits.
- Constructed and Maintained 40 miles of trails.
- Maintained 809 miles of roads.

Forest Products

Idaho BLM completed commercial sales of forest and woodland products as well as restoration treatments on over 1,500 acres, resulting in 18.8 million board feet of timber and 110 cords of fire wood. The Wet Gulch restoration project, for example, involves fuels reduction, fish (steelhead) habitat restoration, and healthy forests components. Besides the resource benefits and fire protection to the nearby rural community of Lucille, Idaho, the timber sale portion of the project will provide about 3.5 million board feet of timber.



Rangeland Management

- **Grazing.** Idaho BLM manages nearly 2,200 allotments. In FY 2004, we issued over 250 grazing permits or leases, and over 2,500 grazing authorizations. We also conducted compliance checks on over 625 allotments and monitoring on over 460 allotments.
- **Noxious Weeds.** Idaho BLM inventoried over 650,000 acres of noxious weeds and treated nearly 71,000 acres.
- **Rangeland Health.** We conducted rangeland health assessments on over 1 million acres.



Tribal Rights and Interests

The federal government has a unique trust relationship with American Indian Tribes based upon treaties, executive orders, laws, policies, and regulations. The BLM works closely with the Tribes to accomplish many land and resource objectives.

- **Indian Trust Lands.** Idaho Cadastral Survey identified and marked over 400 miles of Indian Trust lands this fiscal year, in cooperation with the Coeur d'Alene, Nez Perce, Shoshone-Paiute, and Shoshone-Bannock Tribes.
- **Antelope West Juniper Removal.** This stewardship project is a cooperative agreement with the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes of the Duck Valley Reservation. In return for the removal of encroaching Juniper and piling slash, the Tribes will receive posts and poles.
- **Native Plant Restoration.** Under a developing cooperative agreement, the Shoshone-Bannock and Shoshone-Paiute Tribes will provide native plant material for restoration and/or rehabilitation projects on public lands. Reservation high school students will learn about botany, plant ecology, and nursery operations.



"The annual distribution of Payment in Lieu of Taxes provides funds to counties for improvements to local schools, water, and road systems and to recreation sites in our communities," said Idaho BLM State Director K Lynn Bennett.

Payment in Lieu of Taxes

Idaho counties received approximately \$15.3 million under the Payment In Lieu of Taxes (PILT) Act which help states offset the loss of tax revenues to counties that contain federal lands. This money helps pay for essential services such as firefighting, search-and-rescue operations, and a host of other needed on-the-ground services.

Idaho's 2004 PILT Payments by County

County	Payment	County	Payment	County	Payment
Ada	\$277,026	Cassia	\$1,067,636	Lewis	\$11,307
Adams	\$102,819	Clark	\$93,239	Lincoln	\$393,415
Bannock	\$286,926	Clearwater	\$278,402	Madison	\$80,941
Bear Lake	\$355,864	Custer	\$391,379	Minidoka	\$243,689
Benewah	\$19,754	Elmore	\$1,301,845	Nez Perce	\$47,570
Bingham	\$439,039	Franklin	\$166,465	Oneida	\$372,661
Blaine	\$990,619	Fremont	\$651,601	Owyhee	\$701,243
Boise	\$167,817	Gem	\$139,508	Payette	\$90,962
Bonner	\$86,352	Gooding	\$331,389	Power	\$403,733
Bonneville	\$795,193	Idaho	\$842,713	Shoshone	\$232,140
Boundary	\$90,182	Jefferson	\$260,723	Teton	\$116,635
Butte	\$254,004	Jerome	\$134,659	Twin Falls	\$893,459
Camas	\$84,197	Kootenai	\$334,631	Valley	\$388,163
Canyon	\$26,809	Latah	\$117,699	Washington	\$402,856
Caribou	\$336,905	Lemhi	\$502,309		
				Total	\$15,306,478



Idaho BLM Offices

Idaho State Office

1387 South Vinnell Way
Boise, ID 83709
(208) 373-4000

District Offices

Coeur d'Alene District

1808 N Third Street
Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814
(208) 769-5000

Boise District

3948 Development Ave.
Boise, ID 83705
(208) 384-3300

Twin Falls District

378 Falls Ave.
Twin Falls, ID 83301
(208) 735-2060

Idaho Falls District

1405 Hollipark Drive
Idaho Falls, ID 83401
(208) 524-7500

Field Offices

Coeur d'Alene

1808 N Third Street
Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814
(208) 769-5030

Bruneau

3948 Development Ave.
Boise, ID 83705
(208) 384-3300

Burley

15 East 200 South
Burley, ID 83318
(208) 677-6641

Challis

801 Blue Mountain Road
Challis, ID 83226
(208) 879-6200

Cottonwood

House 1, Butte Drive
HC 3, Box 181
Cottonwood, ID 83522
(208) 962-3245

Four Rivers

3948 Development Ave.
Boise, ID 83705
(208) 384-3300

Jarvis

2620 Kimberly Road
Twin Falls, Idaho 83301
(208) 736-2350

Pocatello

4350 Cliffs Drive
Pocatello, ID 83204
(208) 478-6340

Owyhee

20 First Avenue West
Marsing, ID 83639
(208) 896-5912

Shoshone

400 West F Street
PO Box 2-B
Shoshone, ID 83352
(208) 732-7200

Salmon

50 Highway 93 South
Salmon, ID 83467
(208) 756-5400

Upper Snake

1405 Hollipark Drive
Idaho Falls, ID 83401
(208) 524-7500